

Rockcastle Vernon Signal.

VOLUME XIV.

MT. VERNON, ROCKCASTLE COUNTY, KY., FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1900.

NUMBER 16.

FIRST MESSAGE.

Gov. Taylor Sends It to the Kentucky Legislature.

Wants Election Law Repealed and a New State House Provided—State's Finances in Good Shape.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

At no more auspicious time than this could you have been chosen to serve the people of the state of Kentucky their legislators. The gravest questions ever arising in the history of the state are to come before you for determination. Not only this, but you are called to act as the morning of another century begins to dawn upon the earth, which event marks the beginning of a new epoch in the history of nations. It lies with you to make that dawn, so far as Kentucky is concerned, glorious and prophetic of a century of progress, or to render it darkened and a forecast of years of civil and commercial oppression to our people.

It may not be inappropriate to briefly remind you of the state's remarkable achievements during the century now drawing to a close. Three great wars with foreign foes have been fought by our nation; our national independence wrought and the supremacy of American arms established. The most gigantic civil conflict in history has been fought by our people, its issues forever settled, and the whole country indissolubly bound together in bonds of fraternal love. Ours has come to be the exemplar of liberty to all the nations of the earth and our flag has crossed the seas to adorn the lands of bondage. From a few thinly populated states on the eastern coast our nation has extended its territory by conquest and purchase from ocean to ocean and from the Gulf to the lakes, and our population has grown to more than 70,000,000 of free people. States more vast than old world empires have been carved out of the wilderness and desert, and added to the national cluster. Religion has reared her temples and education her seats of learning in every community within our borders, and our people, our people are enjoying a degree of happiness and material prosperity unprecedented in all history.

With the lessons of yesterday so plainly to be read in the light of to-day, with the past achievements of our people so vividly in our hearts, so enduringly in our memories, with the horizon of the future so brightly glowing with promise, with all these things in our minds, it is natural that in the present grave condition of affairs in the state, the people should expect that the government should be able to restore and conserve to them their liberties and to acquit themselves in all respects as patriots.

A republican form of government depends upon the sanctity of suffrage. So long as the rights of ballot are held inviolate, so long will there be strictly and peace in the state; but where, by forms of law or otherwise, this most sacred prerogative of the citizen is invaded or destroyed, then strife and confusion follow, and free government is at an end.

The supreme object of a republican form of government is "the greatest good to the greatest number." Anything subversive of this inevitably results either in despotism or anarchy. The people of our own state have jealously guarded this sacred right of suffrage by constitutional guarantee.

Gov. Taylor here mentions that section of the state constitution which says that all elections shall be free and equal, and then proceeds to denounce the passing of the Grobel election law.

The citizens of the state or community vote upon other and graver questions than that of who shall serve as their public officers. Matters that affect the well being of the locality, constitutional amendments and other questions of vital and far-reaching importance must be determined under the same law that provides for the election of public officers, and are of paramount importance to the people.

The infallible test of the wisdom or folly of any law lies in its application. The present election law, tried by this test, is unwise, unpatriotic and unjust. Its provisions make it possible for an election tribunal in the state, from the highest to the lowest, to be dominated by one party; to encourage bribery and the possibility of a reality. Not only has it permitted one party to pack the precinct election boards, but it has also prevented the various other parties from having adequate representation at the polls, by witness casting and counting of the votes. More than this in many instances, the officers appointed under its provisions refused to hold elections at all, or to certify the vote as cast, or certified to that which was false and sought in every other way that partisan interest could devise to deprive the voters of their suffrage. Yet for such flagrant violations of official duty no penalty is provided by the law, and the only justification offered by the officers for such outrageous conduct is that the interests of their party are thereby served.

The conduct of those charged with the execution of the law has kept the people in the most dreadful apprehension as to what any day may bring forth. It has introduced into our elections the most corrupt practices known to the lowest order of politicians. It has contaminated public morals, caused the people to lose faith in the government, and has placed a premium on political infamy and a discount on common honesty in political affairs. It has paralyzed business, divided households and plunged the people into a state of excitement hitherto unknown, and brought upon them an incalculable brood of evil.

These indubitable facts must appeal to you for prompt and decisive action in the repeal of this measure and the substitution thereof of an election law that will guarantee to the people a free ballot and an honest count. If you do this, much and more, you will have accomplished a glorious work. You will thereby proclaim yourselves patriots, win the love of the people of your state and receive the plaudits of the nation.

STATE FINANCES. The people of Kentucky are to be congratulated upon the excellent financial condition of the state. At the close of the year 1899 its cash resources were as follows: Balance in the sinking fund, \$86,342.22; school fund, \$23,728.50; general expenditure fund, \$68,072.17; total cash in treasury, \$1,000,000. In addition to these cash resources of \$1,000,000, there is to the credit of the sinking fund, turnpike stock estimated at \$100,000, making an aggregate of total resources of \$1,100,000.

The bonded indebtedness of the state at the close of the year 1899 was \$3,455,790.88.

The governor calls attention to the fact that only the coupon bonds issued July, 1897, and the certificates of indebtedness issued 1885, will have to be ultimately discharged by payment of the principal.

However, the resources of the treasury were on December 31, 1899, sufficient to discharge that indebtedness and leave a surplus of \$100,000. The A. & M. college bonds, as well as the educational bonds, are intended to be perpetual obligations upon which the state is required to pay only the accruing interest. It should be remembered, however, that the funds for which these bonds were executed were used in defraying the general expenditures of the state government. In order that the present condition of our finances may be justly appreciated, it is well to contrast it with that prevailing in March, 1888.

It will be seen that not only have the current expenses in the last four years been paid, but that a very large floating debt has been discharged. In view of

the present splendid condition of our state finances, but little legislation is required to the subject of taxation appears to be necessary.

The recent decision in the supreme court of the United States, holding that the provision in our revenue act of 1892 authorizing the assessment of the value of real estate for taxation purposes, in conflict with the United States statutes, demands your attention. The act requires that the value of real estate be assessed for taxation purposes in conformity with the United States statutes and provide for the proper assessment of the shares of stock of these institutions for purpose of state and local taxation.

A well regulated law providing a license tax on wholesale and retail dealers and increasing the tax of retail dealers would produce considerable revenue. The license on circuses might well be increased and regulated according to the population of the various counties in which they exhibit. A small fee might be charged on each commission issued to an officer. This fee would generally be cheerfully paid. The tax on deeds and mortgages should be regulated according to the value of the property mortgaged or conveyed. Under the present law, a tax on a deed conveying \$20,000 worth of property is no more than on a deed conveying property valued at \$100. This is inequitable and should be remedied.

EDUCATION. No genuine thinker or true patriot ever questions the truth and wisdom of the declaration uttered nearly 25 centuries ago by Aristotle, that the education of the people depends upon the education of the children. It is in common accord with the common experience of mankind, and is abundantly illustrated in every essential advancement in civilization. It applies to the state as it applies to the individual. A republican form of government whose real strength and stability rest alone with the people. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that Kentucky should zealously guard her common school interests. It is a matter for congratulation that the schools of this state are so efficient, and popular favor from year to year, as is evidenced by better attendance, increased number of scholars, and furnish local aid and more thorough preparation on the part of teachers.

The per capita for the school year ending June 30, 1898, 1899, reached the high water mark, being \$2.75, \$2.55 and \$2.30 respectively for these years.

After the per capita for the school year ending June 30, 1899, had been fixed, large sums of back taxes were collected from railroads and other sources, which materially augmented the school fund. This enabled the administration to fix the per capita at \$2.50 for the present school year.

A suitable building, properly furnished, is a prerequisite to every school. If the public fund is to accomplish its proper good. The present method of requiring each school district to build and furnish its own school house must necessarily, in a large measure, fail of satisfactory results.

A late decision of the court of appeals holding that the constitution limits the indebtedness of school districts to the amount of the tax levied for the purpose of building and furnishing school houses, is a serious obstacle to the building of school houses in poorer districts to build comfortable houses, and furnish them under any other district tax.

A short of practical confiscation, and emphasizes the necessity for action by this general assembly for their relief. In many states the township or county rather than the school district is made the unit for taxation. The desired result might result from legislation along these lines. These suggestions are submitted for your consideration.

The governor dwells at length on the importance of a perfect system of enumeration for school purposes in larger districts.

One of the most deplorable defects in our common school system is the shortness of the term in which the children seldom have an opportunity to attend school longer than five months. The efficiency of the schools. Teachers can ill afford to prepare for their work; in fact, can not make teaching a profession, under a system that gives them employment for only five months out of 12. It is not probable that the school fund will ever be materially increased by state taxation.

STATE COLLEGES. Standing at the head of Kentucky's public school system and forming an essential part of it, are two institutions for higher education, the white and the colored race. Each in its sphere has done, and is destined to do, a great work for the young men and young women of this commonwealth in the way of professional training. These schools, called the State college and the State Normal School for colored persons, should, from time to time, have such aid from the general assembly additional to the regular appropriations, as their growth demands.

The governor cites the injustice to women in the matter of the State Normal School for colored persons, and asks the question: What could be more plainly the duty of the state than to provide the greatest possible facilities for these young women? They will become the teachers of the state public schools, to procure the best possible equipment for this important office? To this end, I recommend that the legislature make an appropriation ample for the erection of a dormitory for the young women students at the State college, with all facilities necessary for the incorporation of this dormitory should be placed under the management of Christian women.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS. The reports from the state asylums will be laid before you. It seems that the sanitary condition of each of the institutions is excellent. The inmates are well clothed, well fed and properly cared for in every particular.

The expenses of the Eastern asylum for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1899, exceeded its income by \$2,632.30. This deficit was caused by expending considerable money on repairs of buildings. The report of the treasurer of the Western asylum, covering the period from October 1, 1898, to September 30, 1899, shows that that institution lived within its income and had to its credit at the latter date \$8,300.19.

The reports of the commissioners of the Kentucky Institute for the Education of the Deaf and the Kentucky Institute for the Education of the Blind are laid before your body for consideration.

HOUSES OF REFORM. In 1896 an act was passed appropriating \$100,000 for the purpose of purchasing a site and erecting houses of reform, where offenders might be reformed. In 1900 this class of prisoners had been incarcerated with old and hardened criminals. The commissioners appointed by the governor, under the provisions of the act, purchased a site near Lexington, Ky., and have partly completed the buildings, and 50 prisoners have already been conveyed to that institution.

The appropriation has been nearly exhausted and the necessary buildings not completed. An additional appropriation will be asked for in the report of the trustees. This is a matter that demands your serious attention.

THE PENITENTIARIES. The board of prison commissioners will doubtless lay before your report as to the operation of the two penitentiaries for the last year. Their reports are not likely to balance with the auditor's books with reference to the expenditures, because the actual expenditures of the penitentiaries are not shown by the wardens' reports, the salaries and the expenses of the commissioners not appearing in the wardens' books. The penitentiaries have been under the control of the management 16 months. Telling into account, as we must, the invoices at the beginning and at the close of this period, the expenditures for the penitentiaries for the 16 months ending November 30, 1899. In these statements the invoices furnished by the pris-

on records have been used. They do not, however, include an expenditure of \$8,000, appropriated to enlarge the prison dining room.

MOBS. Mob violence has long been prevalent in the state, but no adequate remedy for its prevention has yet been devised. The reputation of the state has been injured abroad and immigration retarded because of this fact. The evil demands the most serious attention of your body. The recent occurrence in Mason county is so shocking and revealing that it emphasizes the necessity for effective legislation to prevent its repetition in the future. The present law provides sufficient punishment for such offenders as these, but the sentiment in communities where these things occur, seems to either overawe the officers who are charged with the execution of the law or else enlist their sympathies in favor of the violations. Hence, it is apparent that if these offenders are to be brought to justice, it must be by giving courts removed from the scene of the crime jurisdiction, and authorizing the selection of special prosecutors who are independent of local influences.

Although all efforts to punish the character of crime have hitherto proved futile, yet our efforts should not relax, until some thoroughly remedied is devised to prevent its commission.

WOMEN'S PRISON. The penitentiary at Frankfort is greatly overcrowded. The space occupied by women is needed for the accommodation of men, and the quarters are totally inadequate for opportunity to give the women the instruction they need. Hence, it is recommended that an establishment of a prison for female offenders, which shall be entirely under the management of Christian women, who will for humanity's sake conduct the institution in such way as to teach every woman who is confined in the prison for a period as long as a year, how to do some one thing well, and thus send her back to society as equipped as to be able to earn an honest living.

MUNICIPAL TAXATION. Much complaint comes from the larger cities of our state because of the fact that the local self-government is practically denied local self-government concerning municipal taxation. It is earnestly recommended that the fact that the local tax rate on all manufacturing and other sources, which materially increases the growth of these cities.

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PUSHING THE ENEMY.

Several More Engagements in the Philippine Islands and Five of Our Men Are Killed—The Enemy Routed.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The war department has received the following from Gen. Otis, at Manila, under date of January 8:

"Gen. Bates is pursuing the enemy in the south with vigor. Gen. Schwan's column, in moving along the shore of Laguna de Bay, struck 800 insurgents, under Gen. Noriel, at Binon, on the 6th inst., and drove them westward on Silang and captured the place, from which point the cavalry pushed through to Indang. Schwan captured three of Noriel's six pieces of artillery, and will take the remainder; also his transportation with records and a large quantity of ammunition.

Two battalions of the 28th, part of Wheaton's column, struck the enemy near Imus Sunday, killing and wounding 140. Birkheimer, with a battalion of the 28th, struck the enemy entrenched west of Bacoor Sunday morning. Enemy left on the field 65 in dead, 40 wounded and 32 rifles.

"Our loss thus far is Lieut. Chene, of the 4th infantry, and four enlisted men killed and 24 enlisted men wounded.

"It is expected that Schwan's troops will cut off the retreat of the enemy's Cavite army.

"Wheaton is moving on Das Marinas. "Boyd, 37th infantry, moved east from Las Banos, surrounded the troops of Gen. Rical at daylight, capturing Gen. Rical and considerable property. It is expected Cavite and Petanun provinces will be cleared up soon.

"In the north Leonhauser, with three companies of the 25th, attacked robber bands in Arayat mountain, and dispersed them, destroying their barracks and subsistence, and found there five of our prisoners whom they had picked up on the railroad, three killed and two seriously wounded. These northern robber bands will be actively pursued."

Lieut. Cheney, who was 24 years of age, was a son of Col. Frank W. Cheney, of the Cheney silk works, at Manchester, N. H. Col. Cheney had four sons, all of whom entered the service at the outbreak of the Spanish war, and two of them are in Manila. Lieut. Cheney was appointed to the army from Connecticut and served in Georgia and at Fort Sheridan prior to going to the Philippines early in the summer.

Manila, Jan. 9.—Gen. Schwan has occupied Silang and Indang, Cavite province, meeting with but slight resistance. He captured three guns and a quantity of ammunition. The roads in that section are very heavy.

Gen. Wheaton is at Perez das Marinas.

A force of Filipinos charged 12 men of the 3d cavalry who were scouting behind San Fernando de Jaubon. One trooper and three horses and carabines were captured. The enemy fled.

Manila, Jan. 9.—The bubonic plague is yet sporadic. There have been six cases and four deaths. Preparations are being made to establish hospitals and for disinfecting and quarantining.

Great numbers of provincial natives are coming to Manila, with the result that the city is overcrowded, the increase in accommodations being inadequate, and the rice necessary for foodstuffs is more expensive than at any period during the last 12 years.

The plague is dangerous to the overcrowded, underfed and unwashed natives and Chinamen. Americans avoiding direct contact with the disease are safe.

TRIAL NEARLY ENDED.

The State Will Combat the Plea of Insanity in the Julia Morrison Trial.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 9.—Expert medical testimony was introduced at the trial of Julia Morrison for the purpose of establishing the fact that the alleged injury to her skull caused by the kick of a pony 14 years ago would probably cause emotional insanity under such circumstances as it has been claimed by the defense preceded the killing of Leidenheimer.

The state gave notice that they would combat the plea of insanity by showing that at the hearing of Miss Morrison's application for bail, some of the experts introduced testified that Miss Morrison's unreliable mentality was due to an advanced delicate condition which has since proven to have been not a fact. It is expected that a verdict may be reached Wednesday.

In Memory of Moody.

New York, Jan. 9.—Services in memory of the late D. L. Moody were held at Carnegie hall. The vast auditorium was filled to its utmost with a representative audience. There were ministers of every faith and creed, and persons from every walk of life and representing every nationality and color. Ira D. Sankey, the dead evangelist's companion in his work, was present and led the singing. The speakers were Rev. Wilton M. Smith, Rev. D. H. Greer, Rev. Theo. L. Cuyler, Rev. J. M. Buckley, Rev. A. C. Dixon, Rev. D. J. Burrell, and John R. Mott.

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